



# THIS WEEK IN IRAQ



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U.S. Army photo by Spc. Clydell Kinchen

**An Iraqi Soldier patrols a Mosul neighborhood in the wake of sectarian violence.**

## Iraqi forces rising to the challenge

By Jim Garamone  
*American Forces Press Service*

This week's terrorist attack on the Golden Mosque in Samarra is the "toughest test" for Iraq, a senior DoD official said. But the government and security forces are rising to the challenge.

"We think that, by and large, the Iraqi Security Forces have performed well under a very severe test," Peter Rodman, assistant defense secretary for international security affairs, said.

Rodman and his Joint Staff counterpart, Air Force Lt. Gen. Victor E. Renuart Jr., said the Iraqi government and forces are handling their most complex security challenge.

Terrorists bombed the Askariyah Mosque in Samarra on Feb. 22. The

mosque is a holy site for Shiite Muslims, and the move appears to be a prod to ignite civil war between Sunni and Shiite Arabs - a move that al Qaeda in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has long advocated. Zarqawi's group has targeted Shiite sites and populace in the past.

"What the extremists are trying to do is foment civil war," Rodman said. "But we don't see them succeeding."

Renuart said military personnel look for a number of indicators to see if the military is losing control. "Is there some sense that the regular army units are leaving? There's none," he said. "And the security in the Samarra area is all Iraqi."

He said it is encouraging that the multi-

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**GENERAL CASEY'S CORNER****Civility over civil war**

Last Wednesday terrorists blasted the golden dome of the Askariya Shrine in Samarra north of Baghdad, heavily damaging one of Islam's most significant religious sites. America and other countries have vowed to assist in the restoration of this important shrine to its former glory as a main symbol in Iraqi culture. It is clear the effort of the terrorists was to

provoke the anger of Shiites and drag Iraq into a sectarian war. It is also clear that the terrorists again grossly misjudged the character and spirit of the Iraqi people - and their will to become a free and democratic people.

Just as important as the loss of an important shrine is what did not happen as a result of the bombing. The Iraqi government did not buckle; it stood strong and took strong measures. The Iraqi Security Forces did not fragment or choose sides; they protected the Iraqi people.

The Iraqi people as a whole saw this for what it is; a blatant effort to foment sectarian violence and promote the perception of civil war in Iraq. In all three counts the terrorists failed miserably and the people of Iraq won. Iraqi leaders such as Prime Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari and President Jalal Talabani immediately denounced the crime and demanded the Iraqi people not take the bait of sectarian violence, but instead use this moment to join against terrorism and for Islamic unity. Provincial councils in Basrah, Baghdad and elsewhere called for calm. The peo-

**By Gen. George W. Casey**  
Multi-National Force - Iraq  
Commanding General



**"That is a testament to their superior training, commitment and, more importantly, their allegiance to protect their country and constitution."**

ple of Iraq listened.

To be sure there was and continues to be sporadic violence, as some rogue elements use this opportunity to get revenge for past wrongs or commit crimes. But, there is no indication of an all-out civil war to the extent initially reported in the Western media. As of Saturday, careful analysis revealed less than two dozen mosques across Iraq were

attacked and only six of those had any significant damage. Instead of the wildly predicted outbreak of civil unrest, across Iraq there were dozens of mainly peaceful protests ranging in size from hundreds to thousands of people in the days following the bombing calling for unity. Only three demonstrations were marred by violence - and those situations were quickly controlled by the ISF.

Speaking of the ISF, the government of Iraq employed their military and police forces in an expert fashion and much anticipated "splits" in composition of these units again failed to materialize. That is a testament to their superior training, commitment and, more importantly, their allegiance to protect their country and constitution.

The loss of any holy site is a tragedy, but the loss of a country's unity is a catastrophe. There will be more tests of strength and will in the coming months and years for the Iraqi people. However, if last week is any indication, the future of the new democratic Iraq is off to an impressive start.

*Photos around the Fertile Crescent*

A convoy of Polish Army Soldiers involved with civilian-military cooperation return to Camp Echo after inspecting electrical lines at three locations in Diwaniyah.



Pfc. Gregory Mazzone, from the 978th MP Co., wears a combat protective suit on FOB Brassfield-Mora. Modeled after the EOD suit, the armor includes ballistic plates in the front and back as well as armor inserts for the arms.



A U.S. Army Soldier from the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, guards suspected insurgents during a raid in Taji.



Members of the 101st Airborne Division Band play for Soldiers at LSA Diamondback dining facility as part of a morale-building tour.

**THIS WEEK IN**  
**IRAQ** Online

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# Soldiers and security move to Beiji

Story and photo by Capt. Amy A. Bishop  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**BEIJI** — An Iraqi Army Battalion had their official relocation ceremony Thursday at Forward Operating Base Summerall in Beiji.

The 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division has come to Beiji to take over security operations from Coalition Forces. The battalion was organized in 2005 in the city of Kirkuk and trained there until late January, when security concerns prompted the movement of the battalion to Beiji.

Upon arrival in Beiji, the 4th Battalion was given a secured section of FOB Summerall to set up operations and began a one-on-one partnership with senior leadership and staff between the 4th Battalion and the U.S. Army's 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment.

The 1/187th is a 3rd Brigade Combat Team unit that is overseeing the training and activation of the 4th Battalion in the Beiji area for the 101st Airborne Division.

According to Capt. Jay A. Bessy, a team leader who works with the Iraqi Security Forces, the one-on-one partnership pairs the Iraqi Soldiers with their counterparts in

the U.S. Army to train side by side. Training is conducted at all levels, from senior staff operations and noncommissioned officer training all the way down to the junior Soldier level.

In the weeks since their arrival, they have trained on operating tactical checkpoints, conducting vehicle searches, officer and NCO leadership tasks, and weapons proficiency. "This is a good time for them to get on their feet," said Bessy. "It allows the leadership to regroup and reconsolidate. It is the first step to taking ownership of the security here."

Lt. Col. Randy George, battalion commander of the 1/187th, said that establishing a good relationship with the different governmental agencies is crucial to making the IA effective.

"We have a close relationship with the city council. Before anything moves for-



Soldiers from the 4th Iraqi Army Division march on to the parade field for the battalion's official relocation ceremony in Beiji.

ward, obviously you have to have a safe and secure environment to start economic growth and everything else," said George. "That relationship that we have with the city council is something that the Iraqi Army will have to have."

Lt. Col. Sammi Azeed, operations officer for the 4th Battalion, is hopeful that the union of the battalion and the town of Beiji is successful.

"God willing, we came here to Beiji to provide security for

the town because we know Beiji is one of the hottest spots in Iraq and has a lot of problems. People come from other towns to cause problems for the people who live in this town so hopefully we are going to cooperate with the good people of Beiji to provide them safety and security for their town."

## Troops in Babil Province taking to the water

Story by Cpl. Michael Molinaro  
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division

**ISKANDARIYAH** — Some of them are tankers, some of them are infantryman, but some of them are now ... sailors?

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, are keeping the pressure on terrorists in the Babil province and have taken counter-insurgency operations to the least common of places for an armor unit: the water.

Terrorists will do whatever it takes to go undetected, and using the river is one way they transport and hide bomb-making materials, said Staff Sgt. Paul Jones, combat engineer with the battalion's Company E.

The battalion discovered numerous weapons caches. Recently, four caches were found over a 24-hour period.

Last month, a substantial cache was discovered on one of many islands along the

river.

Islands are a clever place for terrorists to hide improvised explosive devices and other weapons, said Jones. Having a presence on the rivers to prevent terrorists from getting to those islands only makes sense. Soldiers probe the islands and search for weapons and other material terrorists use to do harm.

"It's a nice change-of-pace to be on the river after patrolling the roads all of the time," said Spc. Michael Komaromy, a Company E combat engineer. "There are bad guys on the water, so we need to get them too."

Soldiers from Company E never trained for water operations before deploying late last year, Jones said. Since arriving in Iraq, it has been on-the-job training for these medics, scouts and other Soldiers tasked with keeping the water routes free from terrorists.

"We had two or three days of getting familiar with the boats: knowing where everything is and going over man-over-board drills," said Komaromy, "but the reactions to contact are just about the same as in a vehicle."

The river operations have been effective, Jones said. IED emplacement was more prevalent in the area prior to the battalion's operations. Now, with checkpoints set up and a presence on the water, terrorists are finding fewer places to hide.

"Locals may feel more comfortable and secure knowing that we are providing security all around them," said Jones. "They want to feel better about the area they are living in, and this is one of the ways to make sure that happens."

"If cruising this river all day and all night is what it takes to take the bad stuff out of the (terrorists') hands, then that's what I'll do," said Jones.

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# Surgeon saves Soldier

Story and photo by  
Sgt. 1st Class David P. Benamati  
138th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**MOSUL** — Just weeks after having his heart lifted out of his chest by a U.S. Army surgeon, Iraqi Army Sgt. Taha Salm Hamed is sitting up in bed at the intensive care ward of the 47th Combat Support Hospital at Logistic Staging Area Diamondback in Mosul.

Insurgents shot Taha in the chest as he was leaving a restaurant in Mosul after picking up lunch for his men back at a checkpoint.

"Luckily, the bullet just missed his heart and only damaged a portion of his lung," said Col. Philip Corcoran. Taha was first brought to an Iraqi hospital, but because of a lack of proper medical supplies and facilities to handle his case, he was stabilized and then transported to the 47th CSH. Corcoran is the cardiovascular surgeon in charge of the team of surgeons who operated on Taha.

"During the operation, we lifted his heart out of the chest cavity to inspect it and to ensure there was no damage to the back of his heart as well,"

**Col. Philip P. Corcoran, a surgeon at the 47th Combat Support Hospital, checks on Iraqi Sgt. Taha Salm Hamed.**

Corcoran said.

Taha's injuries have not deterred him in his struggle to free his country of insurgents. His resolve is even stronger now than before. The injury has also prompted him to quit smoking.

Taha and the Iraqi Army are not alone in the struggle to free Iraq from terrorism. The Iraqi Police are also engaged in the day-to-day fight for security in the country.

Iraqi Police Lt. Col. Shehitha Hamed was brought to the 47th CSH after he suffered abdominal wounds in a firefight with insurgents. The Iraqi Police were clearing a building known to house insurgents. When Shehitha heard his men struggling through a firefight over the radio, he

quickly arrived to lend support. Shehitha entered the building and, after being shot in the abdomen, returned fire, killing one insurgent and injuring two others.

Both men said they will continue to fight terrorism in Mosul and throughout Iraq, despite their injuries.

The Soldier and the police officer said it is the best treatment in Iraq and they owe their lives to the doctors and staff.

Maj. William Uptergrove, patient administrator for the 47th CSH, said most Iraqi hospitals are ill equipped to handle critical care patients. Uptergrove and some of the staff from the 47th CSH periodically visit local Iraqi hospitals to assess patient care capabilities.



## Mosque

from page 1

ethnic army and essentially Shiite local police are working together to provide security in the region.

Rodman said he does not see Iraq spiraling down to civil war. "Obviously the extremists want to provoke sectarian warfare, and I am struck by the fact that over a three-year period, leaders of the (Iraqi) communities have been quite resistant to this," he said. "The test is

whether the political process continues."

Iraqi political parties must continue to work together to form a government, he said. In the wake of the bombing, the parties have set aside forming the government. "But we expect this process to resume," Rodman said.

The political process is the strategic prize for the extremists, he said. "Not only do I not see civil war happening, I don't think they will succeed in derailing this political process," Rodman said. "The next few days will tell if I am right."





## Heroes of the Week

# From Baltimore busboy to Infantry Soldier

Story and Photo by Sgt. Dennis Gravelle  
138th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**MOSUL** — When an individual senses their life might be at stand still, a decision has to be made to jump-start a new career.

For Pfc. James Horris from Baltimore, Md., the decision was easy, join the U.S. Army. "A year ago I was a busboy in a restaurant in Little Italy, going nowhere, so I decided to join the Army and chose to be an infantryman," Horris said.

Today, Horris is a Soldier with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom at Forward Operating Base Courage, Mosul.

Back home in Baltimore, Horris knew exactly what his schedule would be, with very little change. However, here at FOB Courage, he gets up before dawn, and is out patrolling the streets of Mosul, at times for many hours.

"No day is ever the same. Everyday we do something different, usually two to three missions a day," said Horris. "We do more before 9 a.m. than what I did for an entire day back at home."

The 172nd arrived in Iraq in August

while Horris was still attending advanced individual training. He caught up with the 172nd in November and was assigned as a Stryker vehicle driver.

"Horris is doing a great job as one of our drivers. He's very reliable and is quick to learn new tasks," said 1st Lt. Devin Hammond, platoon leader, Co. A, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf. Rgt.

Horris is responsible for getting Soldiers to and from FOB Courage safely, not an easy task considering the risks of improvised explosive devices and insurgent activity.

"Our Stryker has had one direct hit from an IED, but Horris ... was able to remain calm and follow directions," said Spc. Nicholas Ericson, team member, Co. A, 2nd Bn, 1st Inf. Rgt.



Pfc. James Horris prepares for another patrolling mission around Mosul as he gets into the drivers hatch of a Stryker combat vehicle.

## Troops rocking the insurgents' weapon caches



**CAMP FALLUJAH** — More than 3,000 pieces of munitions were discovered last week by U.S. Army Soldiers conducting a reconnaissance patrol near Quratiyah. The cache is among the largest discovered to date in western Al Anbar province.

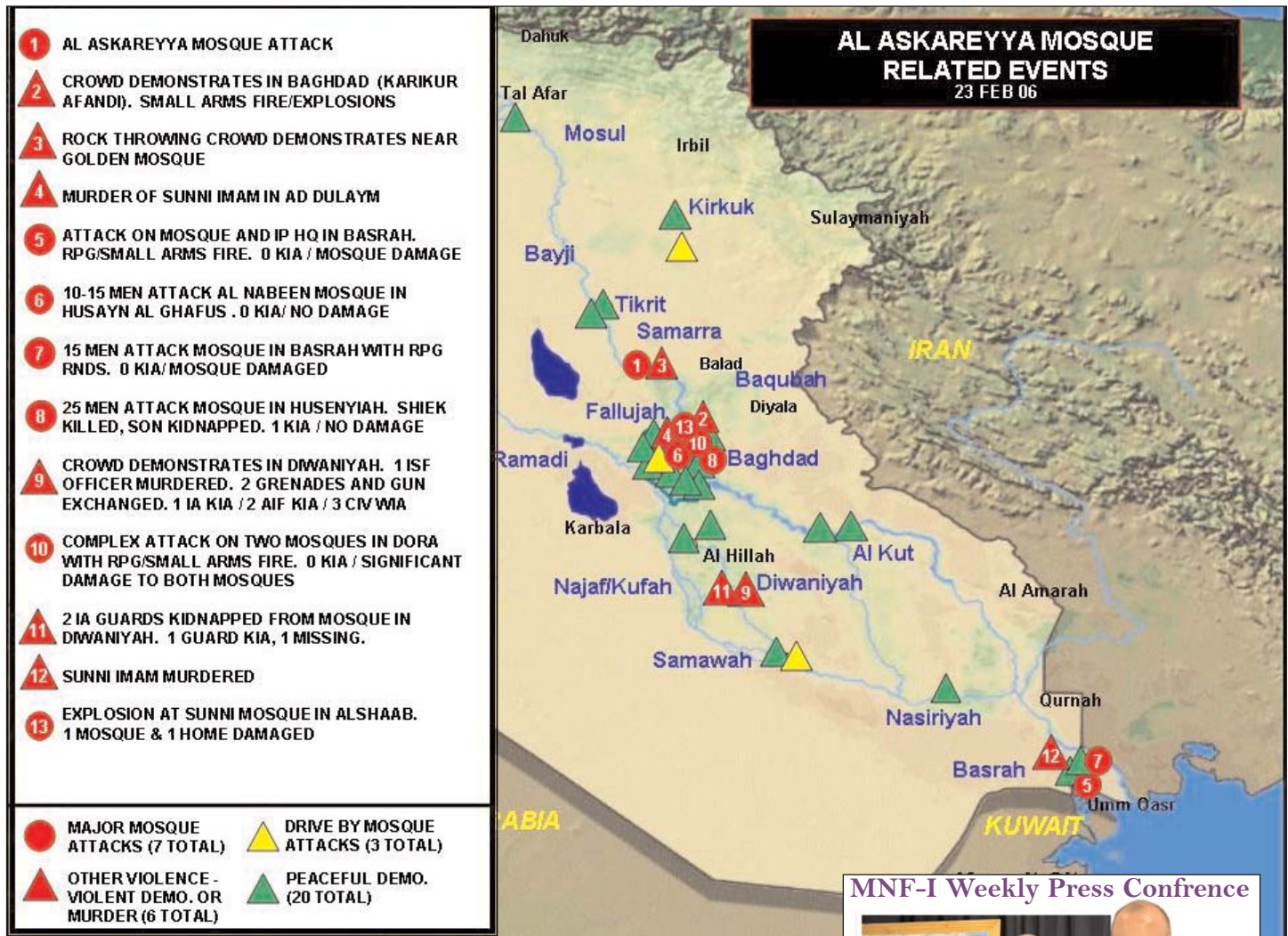
Soldiers from the Fort Wainwright, Alaska-based 4th Squadron, 14th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, assigned to Regimental Combat Team-7, were actively seeking out weapons caches when citizens

tipped them to a site. There, Soldiers found a vehicle path lined with shallow rock piles marking the caches.

"This find means a serious reduction in the (improvised explosive devices) available for anti-Iraqi forces to use in cowardly attacks," said Army Maj. Doug W. Merritt, operations officer, 4th Squadron, 14th U.S. Cavalry Regiment.

The cache ranged from 60 to 125 mm mortar rounds and included other projectile-type munitions. The explosives discovered in the cache are typically used to make roadside bombs that injure and kill Iraqi civilians, Iraqi Army Soldiers and Coalition Forces.





## OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

- **Status of Iraqi Security Forces**
  - Police forces gaining capability, gaining public confidence
  - Iraqi Army performance and independent mission planning and execution continues to improve
  - Cooperation between Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police continues to improve
  - Iraqi Security Forces recruitment remains generally positive and well supported
- **Status of Insurgency**
  - Attacks the same as last week, effectiveness rate down slightly
  - Casualties Up 15%
    - From last week... Civilians Up 34%; ISF Up 12%; CF Down 22%
  - More IEDs and VBIEDs -- both less effective w/ more 'Found & Cleared'
  - Fracturing between terrorists, foreign fighters and local insurgent groups expanding
- **Support an Independent Iraq**
  - Communication between local, provincial, and national governments continues to improve
  - Public and Civic Leaders increasingly holding government at all levels accountable for basic service and quality of life issues
  - Economic issues and initiatives becoming more prominent (business, banking, industry, & agriculture)

### MNF-I Weekly Press Conference



Since the attack on the Golden Mosque, we've seen across Iraq seven major mosque attacks.

The government of Iraq has imposed a curfew and they've done many other things to ... calm the storm. Leaders, both Sunni and Shi'a, have continued to call for calmness, and that's what we're seeing take effect around Iraq.

As of now, seven attacks across Iraq that resulted in damage to mosques; two Sunni imams murdered and one sheik murdered; and then other less significant attacks. We've seen some drive-by attacks - people driving by mosques, sticking a weapon out the window and firing rounds at the mosque, with no resulting damage.

So we're not seeing civil war igniting in Iraq. We're not seeing 77, 80, 100 mosques damaged. We're not seeing death in the streets. We're seeing a confident, capable Iraqi government using their capable Iraqi Security Force to calm the storm that was inflamed by a horrendous, horrific terrorist attack yesterday against the Golden Mosque in Samarra.





505th Army Engineers pour and spread concrete over rebar to repair an IED crater.

## Cementing infrastructure

Story and photos by Spc. L.C. Campbell  
138th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**MOSUL** — Engineers from Company C, 505th Engineer Battalion, work through the night to repair craters caused by improvised explosive devices.

The engineers from Forward Operating Base Marez often do extensive repairs to the road. They do this to protect Coalition Forces and to deter insurgents from reusing the craters to place another IED.

The silence of nights are broken with the screaming sounds of a concrete saw and a jack hammer that vibrates the tranquil atmosphere of the quiet city streets. Preparing the crater turns the jagged edges of the exploded ground into unmistakable clean cut edges. The Soldiers clean out the crater, removing trash and excess concrete. Rebar is then cut and placed into the crater, so when the concrete is poured it maintains stability.

After the preparation is complete, the concrete is poured into the crater. The concrete must be poured precisely, and smoothed before it starts to cure.



An Army Engineer from Company C, 505th Engineer Battalion works through the night to repair holes left from the destruction of an IED.



A 505th Army Engineer jack hammers an IED crater to prepare it for repair.



Army Engineers from Company C, 505th Engineer Battalion, clear debris away from an IED crater before preparing it for repair.



# Shutting down the bad guys in Baghdad

Story by Sgt. Kristopher Joseph  
Multi-National Corps - Iraq

Iraqi Police captured seven insurgents involved in placing a roadside bomb discovered by the Iraqi Highway Patrol in Kirkuk on Thursday.

Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division helped secure the area around the bomb in the eastern part of the city.

"This is one of many recent successes that Iraqi police have had in the past few weeks. They continue to get better every day in their policing skills and in combating terrorists," said Maj. Greg Bishop, 1st BCT.

An Iraqi ordnance disposal unit arrived to defuse the bomb, but it exploded before they could begin their work. No one was injured in the blast.

The size of the bomb was unknown. Parts of a washing machine timer were found in the blast area. Washing machine timers are common detonation devices for roadside bombs.

Soldiers from Multi-National Division - Baghdad, acting on a civilian tip, arrested four terror suspects west of Baghdad on Wednesday. The four men are believed to be involved in a cell that makes and places roadside bombs.

More than 3,000 pieces of various types of munitions were discovered on Feb. 20 by U.S. Army Soldiers conducting a reconnaissance patrol near Quratiyah, about 220 miles northwest of Baghdad.

This cache is among the largest discovered to date in western Al Anbar province.

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, discovered a weapons cache while conducting cordon and search operations south of Baghdad on Feb. 20.

The cache consisted of 34 mortar



U.S. Marine photo by Lance Cpl. Andrew D. Young

**Soldiers from the 14th Cavalry Regiment, line up mortar, anti-tank, anti-personnel and anti-aircraft rounds found in a weapons cache near Rawah on Feb. 20. The munitions will be destroyed to prevent their use by insurgents in IEDs.**

rounds, rocket launchers and four license plates.

Elsewhere in Kirkuk, U.S. troops detained six men on Feb. 19 after four of the individuals were seen placing

an improvised explosive device near a road.

Soldiers from the 1st BCT, 101st

*See OPERATIONS, next page*





U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin L. Moses Sr.

Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Div. stand guard during Operation Vigilant Warrior in Oswesat, on the Euphrates River. The operation's goal was to capture suspected terrorists who planned a raid on the Abu Ghraib Prison and destroy their large weapon caches.

## Operations

*from previous page*

Airborne Div., were conducting a vehicle patrol when they noticed four men dressed in Iraqi Police uniforms on the side of the road. As the Soldiers approached, the men started running.

Still in their vehicles, they immediately called back to their unit, and then started pursuing the four suspects. As the last vehicle in the patrol passed the spot where the men had previously been, the IED exploded and two more men, both dressed in Iraqi Army uniforms, were spotted running. All six men were caught.

An on-site wipe-test revealed trace elements of explosives on the hands of the four suspects dressed in Iraqi Police uniforms, and a search of the other two uncovered a pair of binoculars.

**"...and two more men, both dressed in Iraqi Army uniforms, were spotted running."**

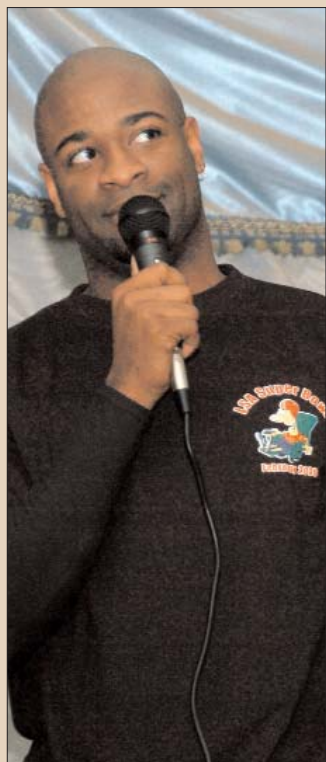


U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon

U.S. Army Spc. Gordon Ignacio, from the 1st Armored Division, conducts a combat patrol with the Iraqi Police in Tall Afar on Feb. 20.

## Comedic presence

Story and photo Sgt. 1st Class Walter van Ochten  
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



**Comedian Warren B. Hall performs for the troops during a Comics on Duty show at FOB Wilson near Dawr.**

have to think about what's going on around them, the dangers and all. It's a stress relief show."

In addition to Sweeney, the group is made up of Andy Hendricks, Bob Kubota, Warren B. Hall and Jeff Capri. Only a few in the group had known each other before their two-week tour, which began in Kuwait.

Hendrickson, he draws much of his material from everyday things said, so this tour has brought him many comedic insights about life on a Forward Operating Base.

The comedians each performed for about 20 minutes. Their humor dealt with the military and life on the Forward Operating Bases; subjects relevant to the audience. As a way of giving back to the comedians, the 2-9th Cav. gave them a chance to fire some weapons.

Hendricks and Sweeney took them up on the offer, shooting a pistol, assault rifle and a light machine gun about an hour before the evening show.

The comics talked with the Soldiers and posed for photos after the show.

"The Soldiers are very appreciative; I was talking to some Soldiers about to go on patrol. It almost gets you choked up that they're so appreciative of us coming out here to do comedy," said Sweeney.

**TIKRIT** — As the crowd boisterously laughs, the man on stage demonstrates how, in a combat zone, the shower water can go from hot to ice cold in seconds.

The laughter was brought to the Soldiers the 2nd Squadron, 9th U.S. Cavalry attached to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division at Forward Operating Base Wilson during a show by Comics on Duty World Tour.

Comics on Duty is a group of comedians bringing humor to Soldiers during their deployments. The tour is designed to help break up deployment monotony.

"The rewards for coming here are overwhelming" said comedian Mark Sweeney "To give these [Soldiers] a break for a couple of hours so they don't

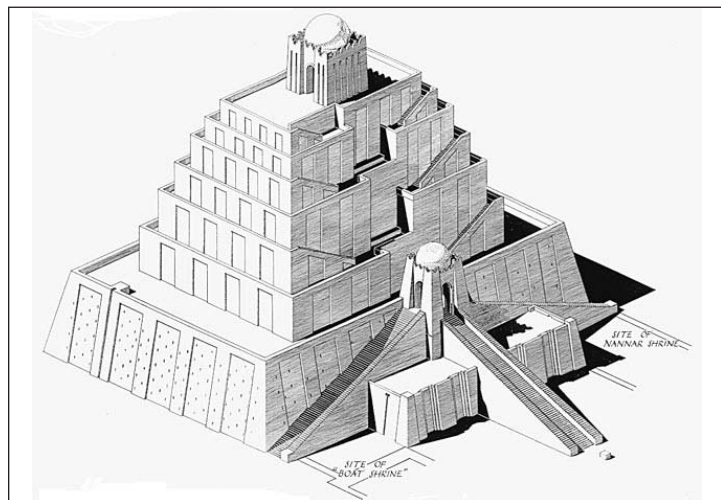
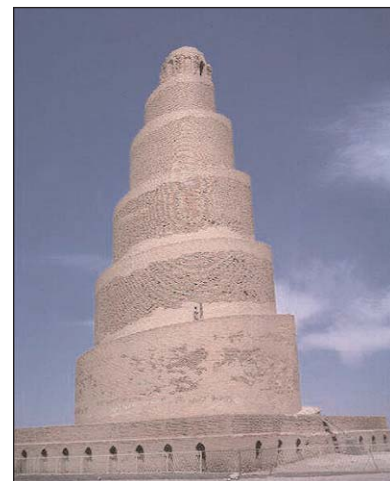
Question Tag

Q: What was the **tower of Babel**?

A biblical structure, it was said to be built near the Euphrates river in Babylon. While artists have long conceptualized a spiral tower similar to the one that still stands in Samarra, experts now think it was square in shape, similar to the Ziggurat in Ur.



**Above: Two artist representations of the Tower of Babel, where men tried to reach heaven in the Bible. Right: The Great Mosque of Samarra still stands in the northern part of the old city. It was the initial model for many artist renderings. Below: A drawing of the Ziggurat of Ur. Much like Mayan Pyramids, the stepped design was easier to erect and made the building usable during the long construction process.**





# Rebuilding Iraq

Projects that are shaping a nation

## Tall Kief

Repairs to the Tall Kief courthouse have been completed. The \$194,000 project also upgraded parts of the facility.

## Shekhan

A hospital renovation project in Shekhan should boost health service to more than 3,000 people.



## Sulaimaniyah Province

A border fort in Sulaimaniyah Province has been built, providing security along the mountainous border with Iran.



## Diyala Province

Two border forts have been built in the Diyala Province along the Iraq and Iran border.

## Fallujah

New storm drains in Fallujah will help prevent flooding and property damage for about 200,000 residents.

## Baghdad

A school renovation in Adhamiyah is complete, giving K-6 grade students a better place to learn.

## Baghdad

More than a mile of pipe will give 11,000 people in Mahmoudiya clean water.



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy L. Wood

**A Soldier from Iraq's 4th Army Division takes up a defensive posture, during a combined operation named Operation Vegas. The operation was an attempt to catch high-value insurgents in the Samarra area on Feb. 17.**



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy L. Wood

**Soldiers from the 187th Infantry Reg. and Iraq's 4th Army Division are extracted by a Chinook during Operation Vegas.**



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Shawn Hussong

# Samarra and Security

**Operation Vegas and the  
Samarra Police Force  
keeping order**

Photos can be found on [www.mnf-iraq.com](http://www.mnf-iraq.com)



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy L. Wood

**An Iraqi Police officer moves seized munitions recently recovered from a nearby river cache in Samarra.**

**A Soldier from Iraq's 4th Army Division stands guard over a berm during Operation Vegas on Feb. 16.**